

Message Text

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21 14

ACTION MED-03

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 L-03 CU-04 SNM-02 ABF-01 OPR-02

OS-03 PER-05 A-01 NSC-10 AID-20 SS-20 CIAE-00 INR-10

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FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9706

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 4596

E.O 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, SN, AMED

SUBJ: AVAILABILITY OF DRUGS IN SINGAPORE

REF: SINGAPORE 4431

1. ASSESSMENT IN PARA 3 REFTEL ON AVAILABILITY OF DRUGS REPRESENT SINGAPORE AMERICAN COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL (SACAC) VIEW OF DRUG SITUATION BASED ON ITS SURVEY OF AMERICAN STUDENTS. ALTHOUGH THIS ASSESSMENT REFLECTS GENUINE CONCERN OF AMERICAN COMMUNITY ABOUT PRESENT TREND, IT WAS NOT MEANT TO BE PRECISE INTELLIGENCE ASSESSMENT AND IS SOMEWHAT OVERSTATED.

2. MARIJUANA AND METHAQUALONE WHICH IS KNOWN ON LOCAL MARKET AS MX PILLS ARE READILY AND CHEAPLY AVAILABLE TO AMERICAN YOUTH. THESE ARE THE DRUGS OF ABUSE AMONG YOUNG AMERICAN ABUSERS AS WELL AS SINGAPOREANS 16 TO 25 YEARS OF AGE. TO DATE ABUSE OF HARD DRUGS, I.E., OPIUM, MORPHINE AND HEROIN IN THE AMERICAN COMMUNITY HAS BEEN LIMITED.

3. THERE ARE APPROXIMATELY EIGHT THOUSAND OPIUM SMOKERS IN SINGUQEWG WHO FALL LARGELY INTO 50 TO 65 AGE BRACKET AND ARE CARRYOVERS FROM COLONIAL
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TIMES. OPIUM ADDICT POPULATION IS STABLE AND IS

DECREASING AS ADDICTS DIE OFF. IN ADDITION THERE IS A MORPHINE ADDICT POPULATION OF FOUR TO SIX THOUSAND PERSONS BETWEEN AGE GROUP OF 25 TO 50. MORPHINE ABUSE IS GROWING IN SINGAPORE. BOTH OPIUM SMOKERS AND MORPHINE ADDICTS OBTAIN THEIR DRUGS IN DENS. VERY LITTLE OPIUM IS SOLD ON STREET FOR HOME CONSUMPTION WHICH MAKES IT DIFFICULT FOR AMERICAN YOUTH TO OBTAIN.

4. NUMBER 3 HEROIN FIRST APPEARED ON STREETS IN APRIL 1973. ABUSE WAS MAINLY AMONG MALAY WORKERS IMPORTED FOR CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY WHO BROUGHT THE HABIT WITH THEM. ARREST OF SEVERAL STREET TRAFFICKERS BY SINGAPORE CNB AND SEIZURE OF CONVERSION LAB IN PENANG HAS GREATLY REDUCED AVAILABILITY OF THIS DRUG HERE.

5. NUMBER 4 HEROIN IS NOT READILY AVAILABLE AT STREET LEVEL. THERE IS NO HEROIN ADDICTION POPULATION IN SINGAPORE. HOWEVER, HEROIN 4 IS AVAILABLE IN SINGAPORE FOR TRANSSHIPMEN TO OTHER MARKETS.

6. WHILE IT IS BELIEVED THAT HARD DRUG ABUSE IS NOT PREVALENT AT THIS TIME AMONG AMERICAN YOUTH IN SINGAPORE, OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO EXISTS FOR THOSE WHO ARE DETERMINED TO EXPERIMENT IN THIS WAY.
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